

# Oughtred Society 2018 Annual Meeting Report

**Las Vegas,  
Nevada**

**Riki Nakamoto  
Richard Davis  
Bob De Cesaris**

Our 2018 Oughtred Society Annual Meeting was held on April 21 at the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas and featured many fascinating displays, three presentations, two excellent dinners, and many interesting items at auction and for sale. Old acquaintances were renewed and new friendships were established with a multitude of interesting conversations and discussions. Many thanks to the meeting committee, headed by Chairperson **Richard Davis**, for arrangements with the museum and for coordination of the presentation topics. In addition **Dick Rose** arranged for coffee and **Richard Davis** brought refreshments. **Bob De Cesaris** arranged for the hotel discounts and for the two excellent private dinners at the hotel. **Riki Nakamoto** treated attendees with specialty snacks that he brought from Hawaii; these are very much enjoyed when back home away from the hectic activities of the meeting! Finally, both of our dinner included some excellent wine, courtesy of **Marion Moon**.

The doors to the museum were opened early at 7:45 AM, so that early attendees could set up their displays. At 9:30 our presentation session began, featuring our three speakers for the meeting. **Louis Gotlib** presented a very interesting review and features of chemistry slide rules; **Marion Moon** discussed a shorthand step by step procedure for using a slide rule. Finally, **Bob De Cesaris** made a presentation on newly discovered unusual examples and historical insights in the area of his favorite slide rules, the W.F. Stanley Fuller and Barnard spiral slide rules. When the meeting adjourned for lunch, the attendees proceeded across the street to several different restaurants where many interesting topics were discussed.

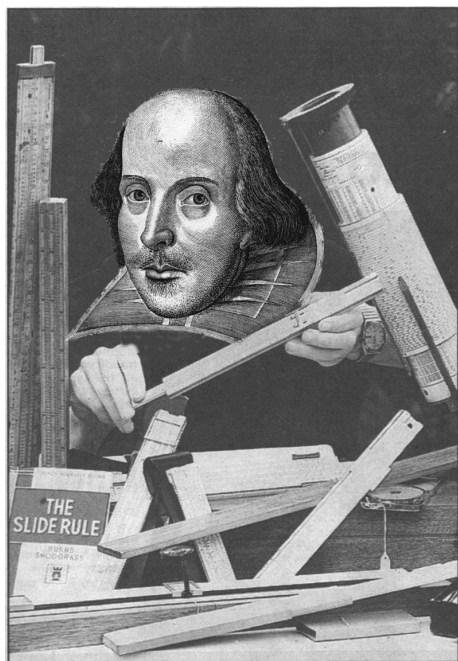
**Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting was called to order by President **Bob De Cesaris** at 1:45 PM. Our Journal editor, **David Sweetman**, despite being seriously ill, was able to attend for a large portion of the meeting and addressed the attendees. He noted that his illness was continuing to progress, making it too difficult to continue in his role as editor. He also noted that he would be working closely with **Jim Bready**, who has assumed the managing editor position, to ensure a smooth transition of our Journal. David thanked the attendees and the Board for offering him the opportunity to edit the Journal, noting that he greatly enjoys the challenges, discussions, mental stimulation and close friendships which ensued in developing and publishing the articles. He strongly urged all members to volunteer their time and energy to support the current officers, editors, and directors to keep the Oughtred Society growing and prospering.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary Clark McCoy reported that our financial condition and membership count remain strong, with 325 members already renewed in 2018, well on track to meet last year's total membership by the end of this year. Lou Gotlib, our Educational Committee Chairperson, reported that he was contacting several STEM-related educational societies to gauge interest in developing projects on increasing education in numeracy.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** A call for nominations of officers for 2019 was held. A motion to re-elect our current president, treasurer, and membership secretary was made and unanimously passed, resulting in **Bob De Cesaris** being reinstated as President, and **Clark McCoy** as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. The positions of Vice-President and Recording Secretary remain open; members should contact one of the OS directors with any interest in supporting these positions or in assisting with the Journal. In addition, it was noted that with the passing of **Ed Chamberlain** last year, our Newsletter Editor position also remains open and needs to be filled.

The election was followed by the formal announcement that **Jim Bready** would be transitioning into the job as managing editor of the Journal, replacing **David Sweetman** by the end of the year. President **Bob De Cesaris** welcomed Jim into his new position and thanked David for all of his dedication and extensive work managing the Journal. He also acknowledged **Donna Sweetman** for all of her assistance, patience, and perseverance in supporting David and the Oughtred Society. He also thanked former Journal editor **Bob Koppany** for his previous work on the Journal and his continuing contributions at our annual meetings. **Richard Davis** then introduced **Ace Hoffman** as our new OS Webmaster, and Ace will be joining the Board in his new role. Updates from the Publications Committee noted that 60 copies of the Curta book titled "The Inventor of the Curta Calculator", approximately 100 copies of **Rodger Shepherd**' book "Pencil Slide Rules and their Successors", and 30 copies of **Richard Smith Hughes**' collection of articles "Specialized Slide Rules for Electronics Engineers" have been sold to date. The attendees were also encouraged to visit our ever-growing Archive of Collections site <http://osgalleries.org/collectors/> which features beautiful photographs of four extensive member and past member collections and where we will soon be adding new and unusual examples of rules, related books, and calculating devices from the **Bob Otnes** collection.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.



**IM2018** will be held in Stratford-upon-Avon, UK, the birthplace of William Shakespeare, on September 21-22 at the Stratford Hotel. Details are available at <http://uksrc.org.uk/im2018/>. Potential locations for **IM2020**, to be held in USA, were also discussed. Some of the early candidates being considered include Purdue University (Lafayette IN), Kennedy Space Center (Cape Canaveral FL), MIT (Cambridge MA), Houston TX and Salt Lake City UT.

**AUCTION:** Our regular auction began at 3:00 PM with well over 200 pieces featured from the **Thomas Wyman Collection**, the **Bob Otnes Collection** and the **Wayne Lehnert Collection** as well as many other items being sold by meeting attendees. Bidding at the auction, conducted by **Bob Koppany** with the assistance of **Riki Nakamoto**, was spirited with both many contested and uncontested items changing hands. After the auction, additional items were sold directly to the attendees during the private sale part of the meeting. Some highlights of the auction included an early example of the Boucher Calculator, a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century 20-inch Keuffel and Esser Mannheim rule, an early variant of the Atlas slide rule, a Fuller's Computing Telegraph with a Palmer's Pocket Scale, and several examples of large radiation rules, some even featuring graphical logarithmic scales.

Since the meeting, we have also begun sale of items on eBay under the eBay ID "oughtred11"; check out the slide rule and calculating devices for sale which will be refreshed weekly. In summary, attendees enjoyed a wonderful meeting with many friendships renewed and new ones initiated. Everyone left with very pleasant memories of good companionship and many with their new treasures and rare items to fill those empty spaces in their collections!

